

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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NESCO - UNIDO ROME FOR FODAG - MONTREAL FOR ICAO

FOLLOWING NAIROBI 1810 SENT ACTION SECSTATE FEB 24 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UNEP

SUBJECT: UNEP FOCAL POINTS MEETING ON FUND CASH SITUATION AND
PROGRAM LEVEL FOR 76-77

REF: 75 STATE 301801

1. SUMMARY: AT WEO FOCAL POINTS MEETING FEB. 23, STEDMAN
PRESENTED "REALISTIC" STATUS REPORT ON CASH POSITION OF
ENVIRONMENT FUND. TERMING SITUATION OF FUND "NOT CRITICAL
AS IS CASE WITH UNDP," HE SAID IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE
DIFFICULT CARRY OUT LEVEL OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES APPROVED
BY GC III (\$27.8 MILLION IN 76 AND \$32.5 MILLION IN 1977).
HE ALSO ASKED FOR ADVICE ON WHETHER HE SHOULD VISIT SELECTED
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EUROPEAN CAPITALS PRIOR TO GC IV IN ATTEMPT ELICIT IN-

CREASED CONTRIBUTIONS. PARTICIPANTS GAVE HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT THAT APPEAL FOR INCREASES WOULD BE FRUITFUL. SOME URGED APPEALS TO THOSE WHO WERE BEHIND IN PLEDGES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIOR TO MEETING, WE INFORMED STEDMAN OF CONTENTS STATE 46561, CONTENTS OF WHICH CAME AS NO SURPRISE. AT OUTSET OF MEETING AND INTRODUCING SECRETARIAT PAPER ON CASH POSITION OF THE ENVIRONMENT FUND, HE STATED THAT REVISED CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF SECRETARIAT ON EXPECTED VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS DURING 1976 OF \$19,000,000 WAS BORNE OUT BY CONVERSATION HE HAD JUST HAD WITH US OFFICIAL. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS ESTIMATE WAS DOWN FROM SECRETARIAT JAN. 27 ESTIMATE OF \$40.3 MILLION SET FORTH IN THE NOTE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FUND, A PAPER PRESENTED AT JANUARY INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. THAT FIGURE HAD INCLUDED THE TOTAL OF ESTIMATED PLEDGES FOR 1976 AND ALL "ARREARS" FOR 1974 AND 75. SECRETARIAT NOW REALIZED THIS FIGURE UNREALISTIC.

3. PAPER CIRCULATED BY SECRETARIAT SET FORTH THE FOLLOWING FOR 1976 IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS:

CASH ON HAND 1 JANUARY	\$12.6	
EXPECTED VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS		19.0
TOTAL	31.6	
LESS: FINANCIAL RESERVE	.6	
PROGRAM AND SUPPORT COSTS		
AVAILABLE FOR FUND PROGRAM		
ACTIVITIES AND FUND PROGRAM		
RESERVE ACTIVITIES	25.0	
LESS: ALREADY COMMITTED IN SIGNED		
PROJECT DOCUMENTS	19.5	
AMOUNT FOR PROJECTS ALREADY		
ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE	2.5	
LEAVING AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMMING		3.0

4. STEDMAN URGED THESE FIGURES BE VIEWED IN LIGHT OF A) NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AREAS OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES REMAINING TO BE FINANCED, AND B) NEED TO KEEP AVAILABLE FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 1977 A REASONABLE AMOUNT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPLEMENT A FINANCIAL RESERVE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER EXPENDITURES DURING THE FIRST QUARTER. EXPLAINING INCREASED PROGRAM LEVEL, HE STATED THAT DURING FIRST YEARS MANY FUND PROJECTS WERE OF THE FEASIBILITY AND PRE-PLANNING TYPE WHICH WERE NOW RESULTING IN "ACTION-ORIENTED" PROJECTS.

5. SECRETARIAT PROJECTIONS FOR 1977 INCLUDED EXPECTED

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$20.0 MILLION LESS FINANCIAL RESERVES AN PROGRAM SUPPORTS COST OF \$400,000 AND \$6.5 MILLION RESPECTIVELY, LEAVING \$13.1 AVAILABLE FOR FUND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. OF THAT AMOUNT \$8.3 MILLION IS ALREADY COMMITTED AND ANOTHER \$3.5 MILLION IS FOR PROJECTS ALREADY ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE LEAVING \$1.3 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR NEW PROGRAMMING.

6. RE NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES WHICH EXPECTED TO BE CONTRIBUTED AT RATE OF \$5.75 MILLION IN 1976 AND \$3.0 MILLION IN 1977, STEDMAN SAID SECRETARIAT IS IN COMMUNICATION WITH PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTOR OF SUCH CURRENCIES (USSR) ON THAT PROBLEM.

7. WHILE SEVERAL REPS PRESENT POINTED TO DESIRABILITY OF SUPPORTING UNEP PROGRAM, SEVERAL (FRG, UK, SWEDEN, FRANCE) INDICATED THAT APPEALS TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT ACHIEVE POSITIVE RESULTS. UK REP SUGGESTED APPEALS TO THOSE INCLUDING HIS OWN GOVERNMENT TO SPEED UP "LATE PAYMENTS WOULD BE MORE FRUITFUL APPROACH.

8. COMMENT: IN HIS INTERVENTIONS, EMBASSY REP INDICATED THAT SECRETARIAT'S NEW FIGURES WERE MORE REALISTIC CITING OUR INTENTION CONTRIBUTE BETWEEN \$5 AND \$7.5 MILLION IN 1976 INSTEAD OF \$10.2 MILLION WHICH SECRETARIAT HAD HITHERTO ASSUMED IN ITS OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS. HE ALSO STATED IT UNREALISTIC CONSIDER CASH SITUATION IN ABSENCE OF DETAILED EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS OUR MONEY IS BUYING. GROUP ALSO INFORMED THAT WE WERE NOTIFYING DR. TOLBA OF OUR NEW PAYMENT SCHEDULE WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS REASONABLY RELATED TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM. CONSENSUS OF REPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULTED FOLLOWING MEETING WAS THAT INFORMATION PRESENTED WOULD LEAD TO MORE CONSIDERED AND REALISTIC ACTION BY GC IV ON PROGRAM LEVEL WHICH EXDIR IS SUGGESTING BE INCREASED FROM \$27.8 MILLION IN 76 TO \$34.0 MILLION AND FROM \$32.5 MILLION TO \$35.7 MILLION IN 1977 (SEE UNEP/66/6\$2. WE ARE TRANSMITTING LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO TOLBA UNDER DATE OF FEB. 24.

9. SUGGEST DEPT. CONSIDER REPEATING THIS MESSAGE AND REFTEL TO OTHER IO MISSIONS AZQUAINT THEM WITH UNEP CASH POSITION.
EXEMPT. MARSHALL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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